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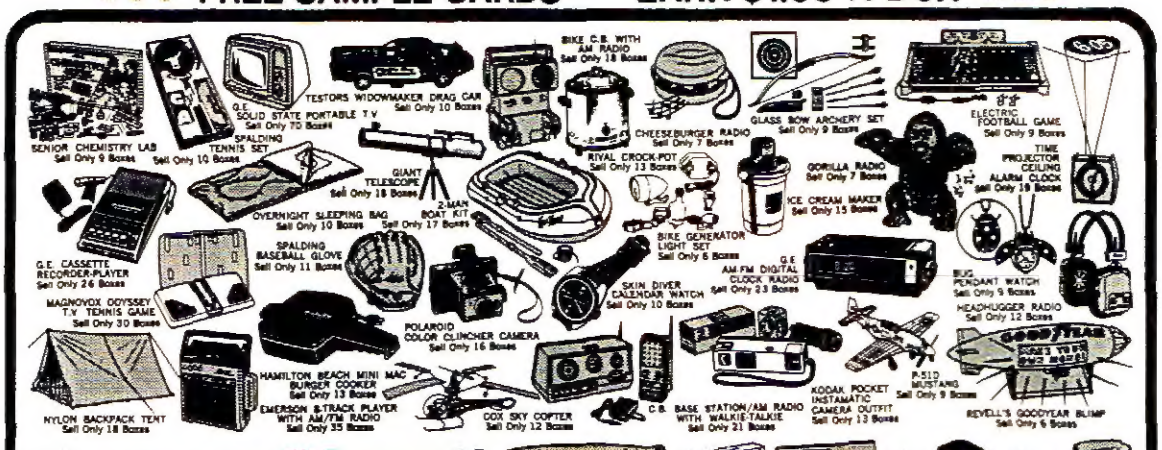

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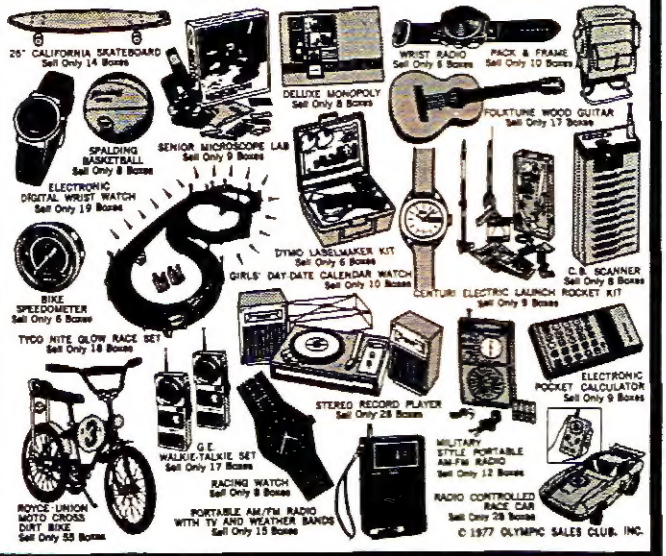

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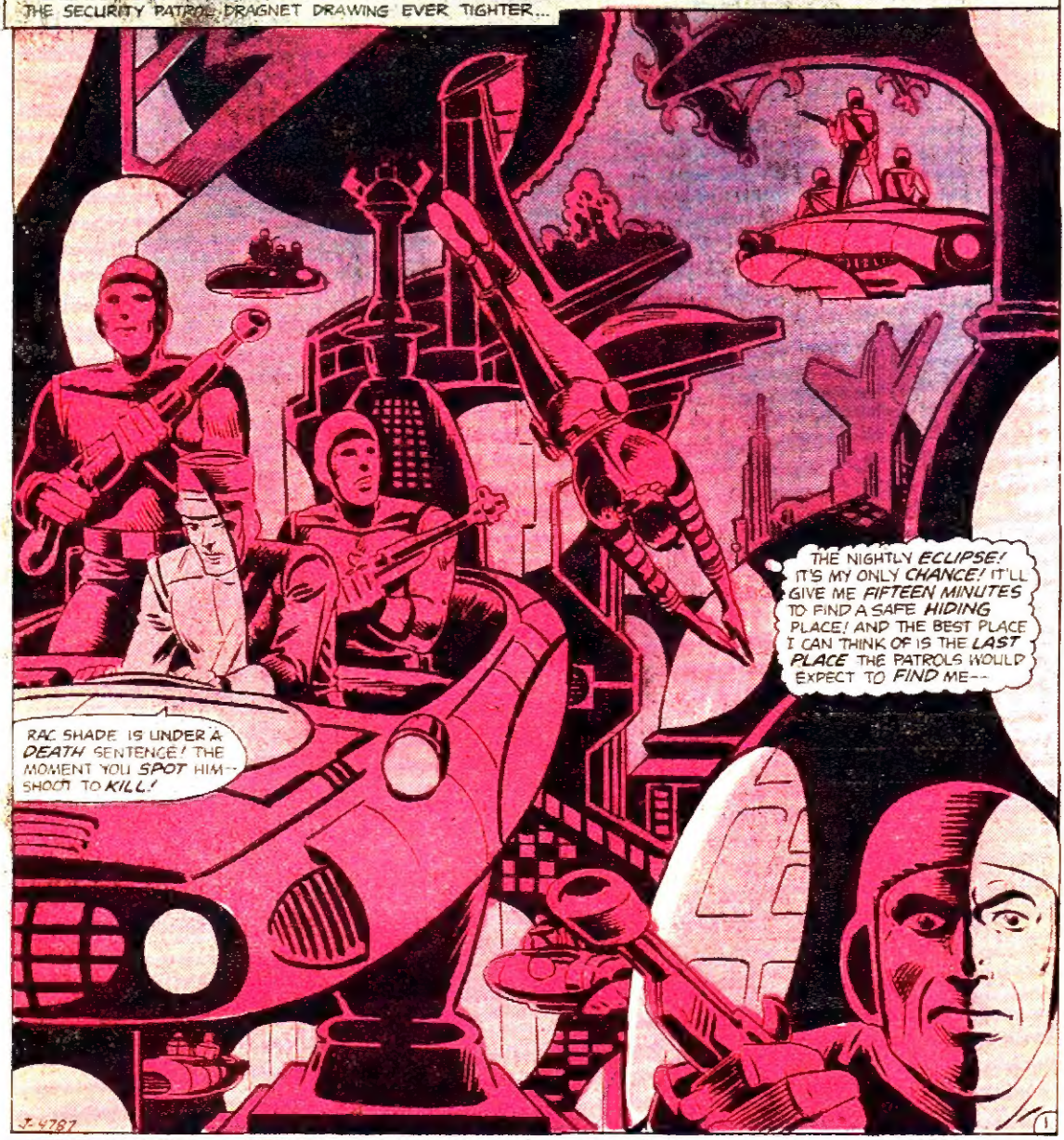
SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN in TO RESCUE MY DESTROYER

CREATED, DRAWN, & PLOTTED by: STEVE DITKO | DIALOGUE by: MICHAEL FLEISHER | COLORED by: JERRY SERPE | LETTERED by: BILL MORSE | EDITED by: JACK C. HARRIS

RETURNING FROM THE *EARTH-ZONE* TO HIS MYSTERIOUS HOME, THE *META-ZONE*, WHERE HE HOPES TO UNEARTH EVIDENCE THAT WILL CLEAR HIM OF THE CHARGES OF TREASON AND ATTEMPTED MURDER, *RAC SHADE*--THE INCREDIBLE *CHANGING MAN*--SOON FINDS HIMSELF THE TARGET OF A *ZONE-WIDE* MANHUNT! AND NOW, WITH THE SECURITY PATROL DRAGNET DRAWING EVER TIGHTER...



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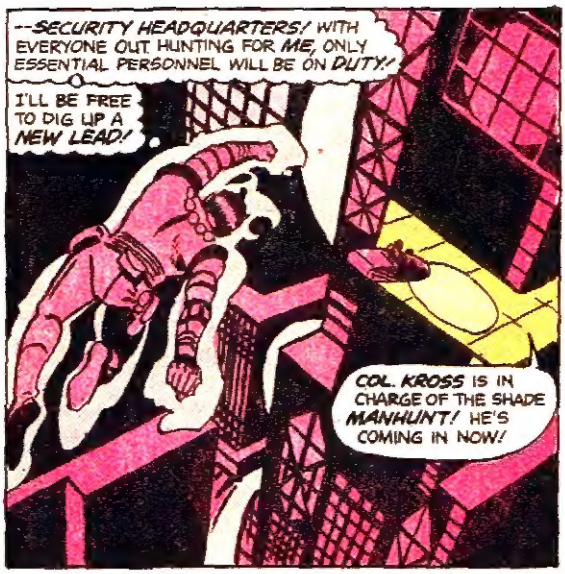
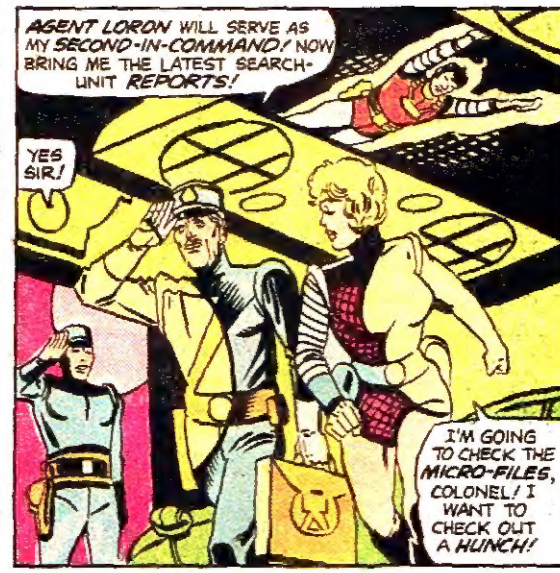
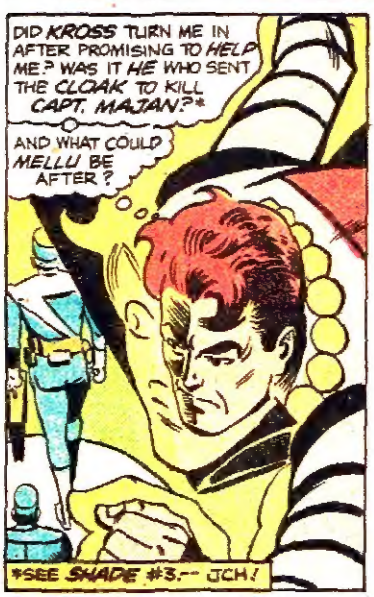
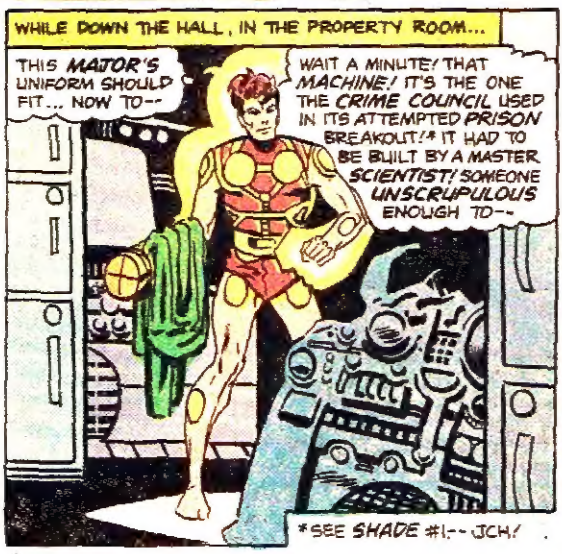

--SECURITY HEADQUARTERS! WITH EVERYONE OUT HUNTING FOR ME, ONLY ESSENTIAL PERSONNEL WILL BE ON DUTY!
I'LL BE FREE TO DIG UP A NEW LEAD!
COL. KROSS IS IN CHARGE OF THE SHADE MANHUNT! HE'S COMING IN NOW!


AGENT LORON WILL SERVE AS MY SECOND-IN-COMMAND! NOW BRING ME THE LATEST SEARCH-UNIT REPORTS!
YES SIR!
I'M GOING TO CHECK THE MICRO-FILES, COLONEL! I WANT TO CHECK OUT A HUNCH!

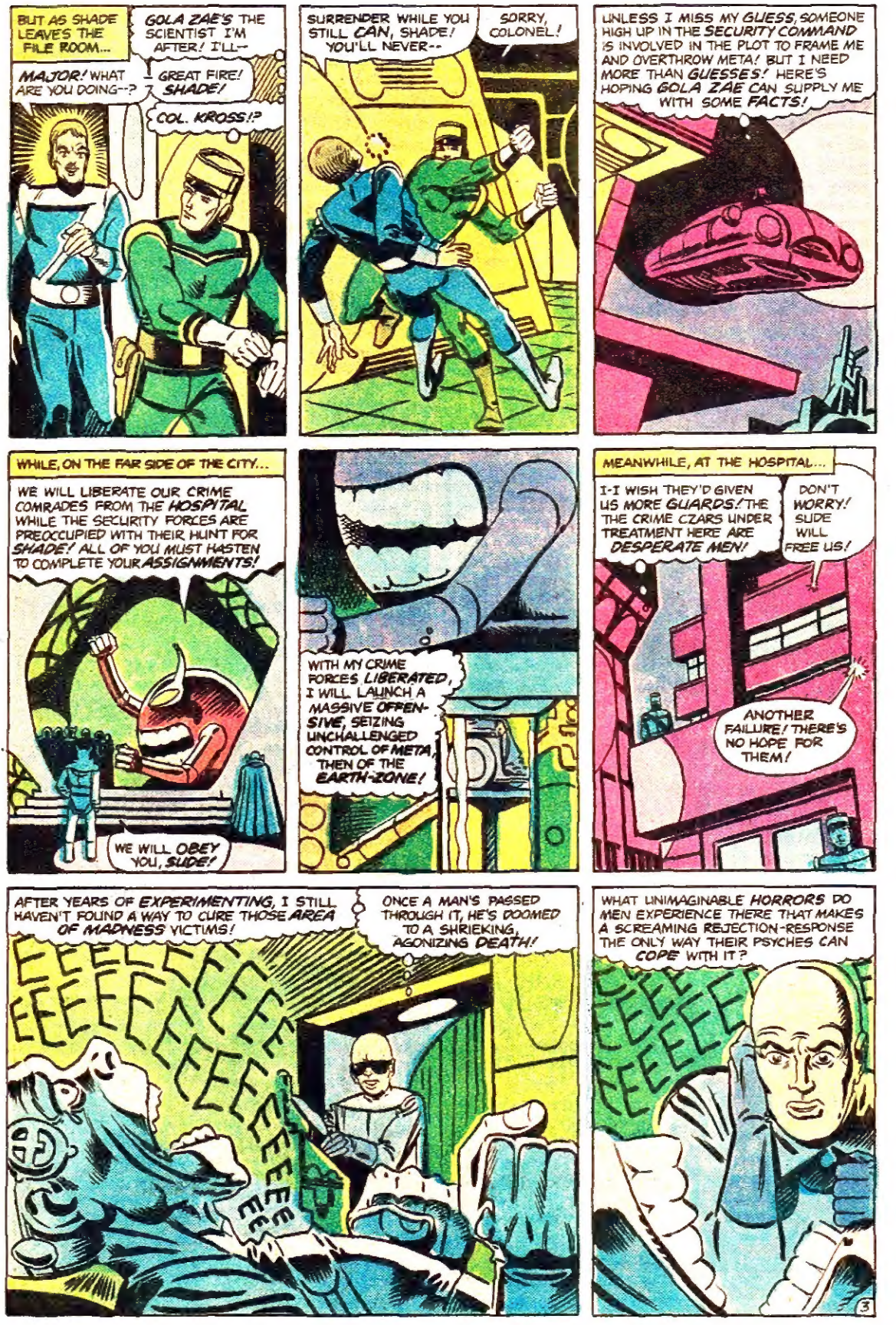

DID KROSS TURN ME IN AFTER PROMISING TO HELP ME? WAS IT HE WHO SENT THE CLOAK TO KILL CAPT. MAJAN?*
AND WHAT COULD MELLU BE AFTER?
*SEE SHADE #3.-- JCH!

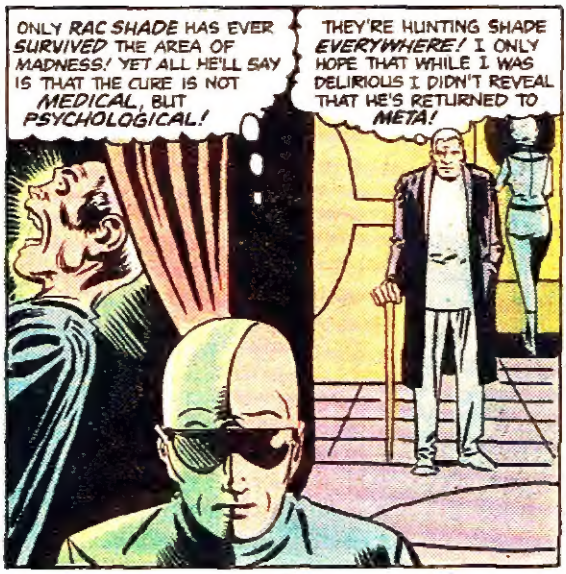
WHAT INDEED, SHADE? FOR MOMENTS LATER, IN THE MICRO-FILE SCANNING ROOM...
GOLA ZAE! A PROMINENT SCIENTIST UNTIL CONVICTED OF STEALING SCIENTIFIC EQUIPMENT! BEFORE THAT, SHE WAS BEING ROMANCED BY CAPT. MAJAN! NOW SHE'S OUT ON PAROLE!

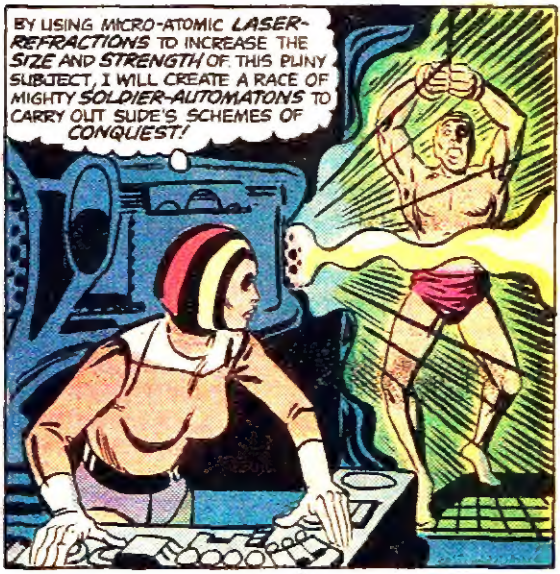
WHAT IF GOLA'S THE LINK BETWEEN SHADE AND MAJAN? MAYBE ALL THREE OF THEM WERE CONSPIRING TO TAKE OVER META TOGETHER! IT COULD JUST FIT!

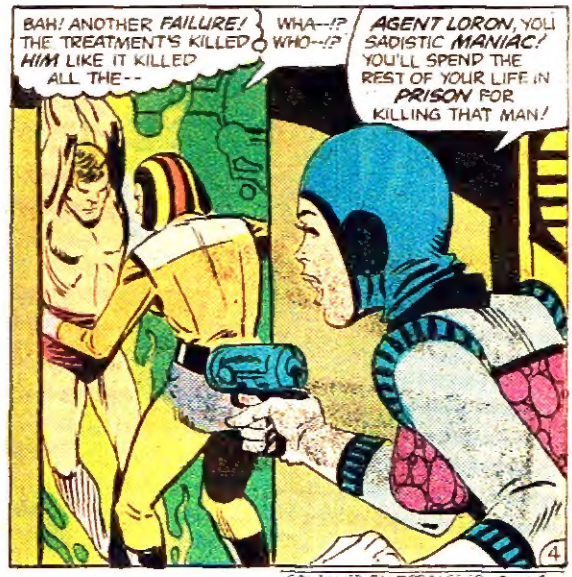

WHILE DOWN THE HALL, IN THE PROPERTY ROOM...
THIS MAJOR'S UNIFORM SHOULD FIT... NOW TO--
WAIT A MINUTE! THAT MACHINE! IT'S THE ONE THE CRIME COUNCIL USED IN ITS ATTEMPTED PRISON BREAKOUT!* IT HAD TO BE BUILT BY A MASTER SCIENTIST! SOMEONE UNSCRUPULOUS ENOUGH TO--
*SEE SHADE #1.-- JCH!

GREAT META! WASN'T CAPT. MAJAN ONCE INVOLVED WITH SOME SORT OF RENEGADE SCIENTIST? I'LL CHECK THE MICRO-FILES! THIS COULD BE THE LEAD I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR!


BUT AS SHADE LEAVES THE FILE ROOM...
GOLA ZAE'S THE SCIENTIST I'M AFTER! I'LL--
MAJOR! WHAT ARE YOU DOING--?
GREAT FIRE! SHADE!
COL. KROSS!?
SURRENDER WHILE YOU STILL CAN, SHADE! YOU'LL NEVER--
SORRY, COLONEL!
UNLESS I MISS MY GUESS, SOMEONE HIGH UP IN THE SECURITY COMMAND IS INVOLVED IN THE PLOT TO FRAME ME AND OVERTHROW META! BUT I NEED MORE THAN GUESSES! HERE'S HOPING GOLA ZAE CAN SUPPLY ME WITH SOME FACTS!
WHILE, ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE CITY...
WE WILL LIBERATE OUR CRIME COMRADES FROM THE HOSPITAL WHILE THE SECURITY FORCES ARE PREOCCUPIED WITH THEIR HUNT FOR SHADE! ALL OF YOU MUST HASTEN TO COMPLETE YOUR ASSIGNMENTS!
WE WILL OBEY YOU, SUDE!
WITH MY CRIME FORCES LIBERATED, I WILL LAUNCH A MASSIVE OFFENSIVE, SEIZING UNCHALLENGED CONTROL OF META, THEN OF THE EARTH-ZONE!
MEANWHILE, AT THE HOSPITAL...
I-I WISH THEY'D GIVEN US MORE GUARDS! THE THE CRIME CZARS UNDER TREATMENT HERE ARE DESPERATE MEN!
DON'T WORRY! SUDE WILL FREE US!
ANOTHER FAILURE! THERE'S NO HOPE FOR THEM!
AFTER YEARS OF EXPERIMENTING, I STILL HAVEN'T FOUND A WAY TO CURE THOSE AREA OF MADNESS VICTIMS!
ONCE A MAN'S PASSED THROUGH IT, HE'S DOOMED TO A SHRIEKING, AGONIZING DEATH!
WHAT UNIMAGINABLE HORRORS DO MEN EXPERIENCE THERE THAT MAKES A SCREAMING REJECTION-RESPONSE THE ONLY WAY THEIR PSYCHES CAN COPE WITH IT?







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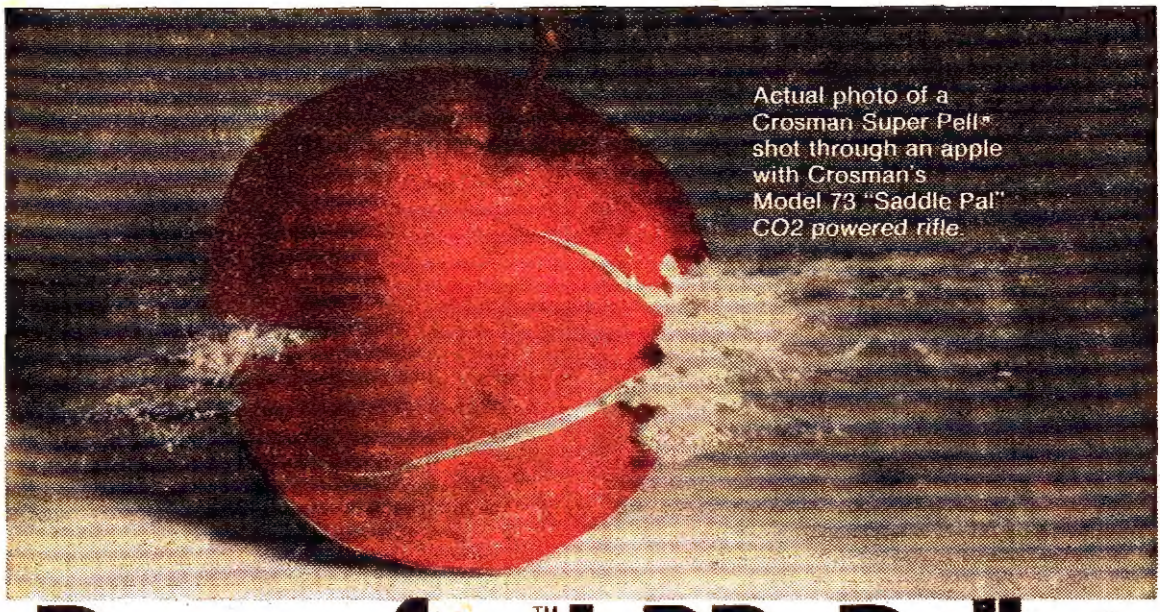

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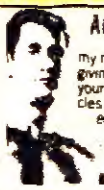

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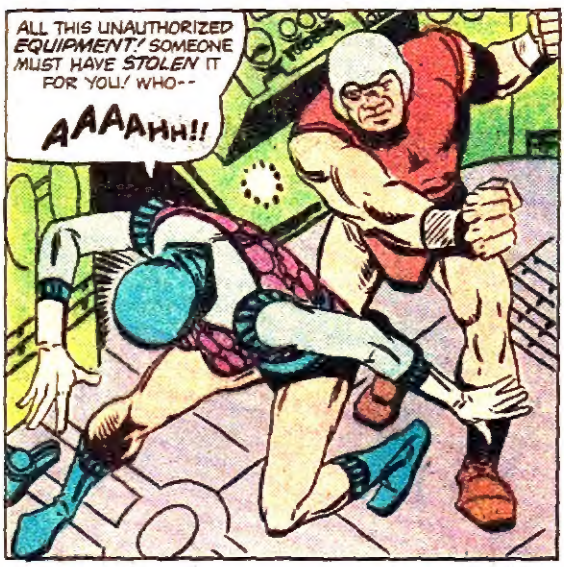
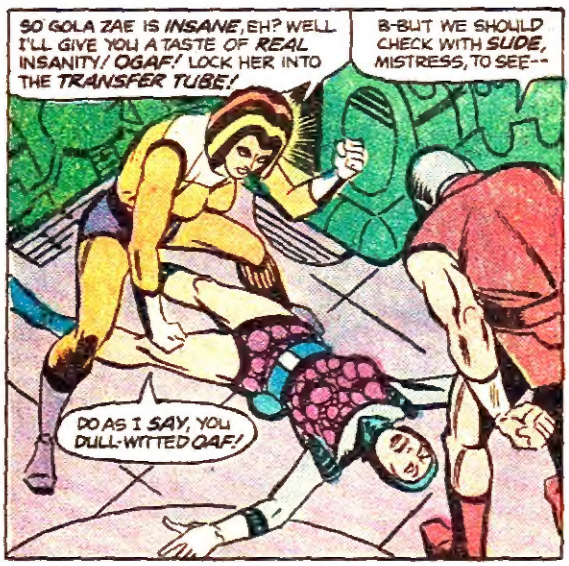
BLAST YOU! MUST I ALWAYS BE CURSED WITH UNWELCOME INTERFERENCE BY... BY SPOILERS LIKE YOU?
YOU'RE INSANE, GOLA ZAE!

NOW TALK! WAS CAPT. MAJAN IN ON THESE LUNATIC EXPERIMENTS OF YOURS? AND WHAT ABOUT RAC SHADE? WHERE IS HE HIDING?
HEH HEHHHH! I SPOKE MY CODE WORD AND ALERTED MY SENTRY!


ALL THIS UNAUTHORIZED EQUIPMENT! SOMEONE MUST HAVE STOLEN IT FOR YOU! WHO--
AAAAHH!!

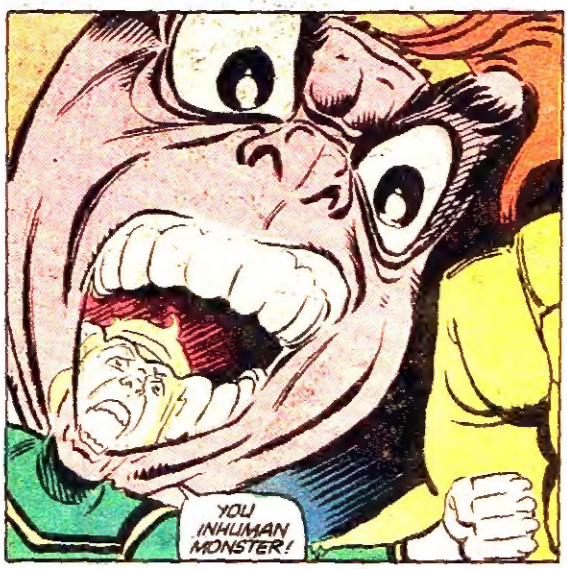

SO GOLA ZAE IS INSANE, EH? WELL I'LL GIVE YOU A TASTE OF REAL INSANITY! OGAF! LOCK HER INTO THE TRANSFER TUBE!
B-BUT WE SHOULD CHECK WITH SUDE, MISTRESS, TO SEE--
DO AS I SAY, YOU DULL-WITTED OAF!

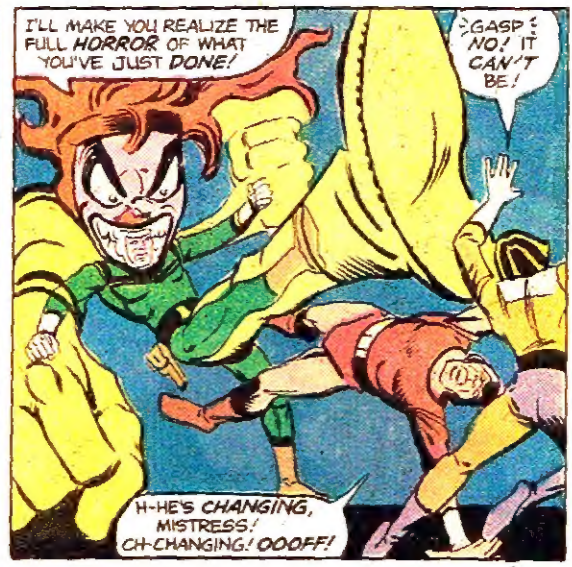
I'D LOVE TO SEND YOU ALL THE WAY TO THE EARTH-ZONE, YOU MEDDLER! BUT THIS TUBE HAS A LIMITED PROJECTION RANGE! THAT MEANS I CAN ONLY TRANSMIT YOU AS FAR AS THE ZERO-ZONE AND INTO...

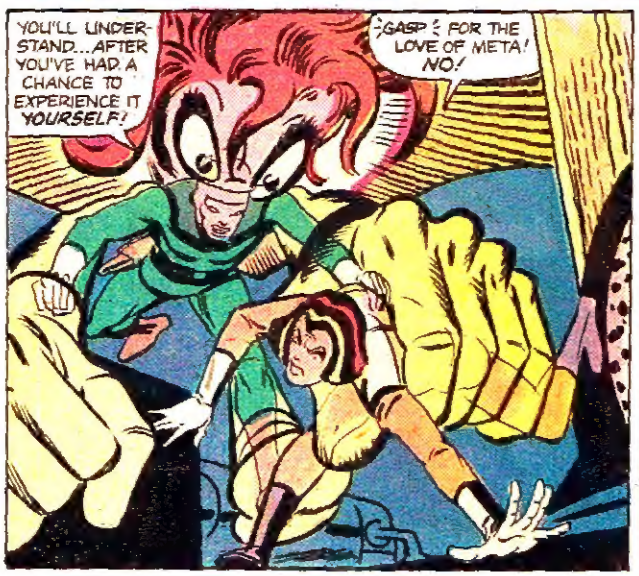
...THE AREA OF MADNESS! HA HA HA! AND THAT'S WHERE YOU'LL AWAKEN!
NO! STOP!

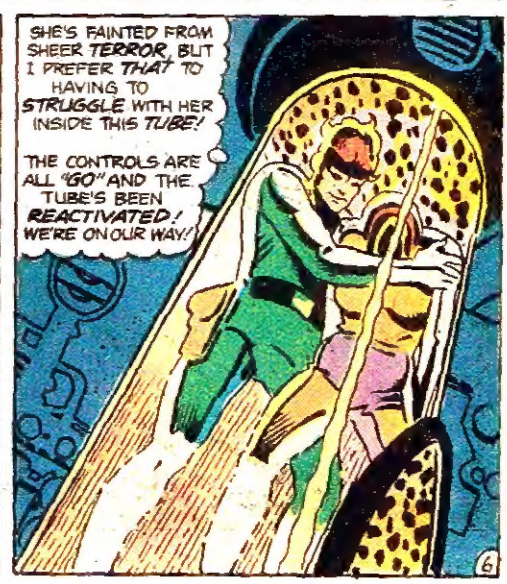
HA HA HA! YOU'RE TOO LATE! I'VE ALREADY ACTIVATED THE TRANSMISSION CONTROL!
GREAT META! NO!

MELLLI! SH-SHE'S VANISHING! DEMATERIALIZING!

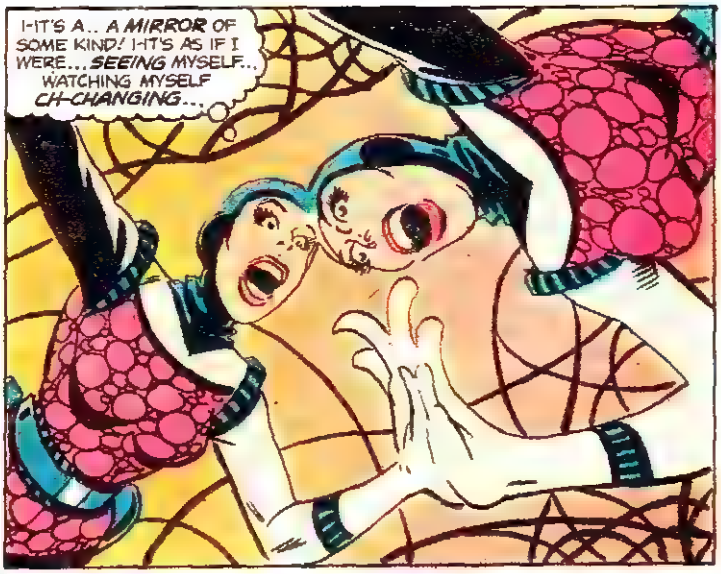

YOU INHUMAN MONSTER!


I'LL MAKE YOU REALIZE THE FULL HORROR OF WHAT YOU'VE JUST DONE!
GASP! NO! IT CAN'T BE!
H-HE'S CHANGING, MISTRESS! CH-CHANGING! OOOFF!


YOU'LL UNDERSTAND...AFTER YOU'VE HAD A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE IT YOURSELF!
GASP! FOR THE LOVE OF META! NO!

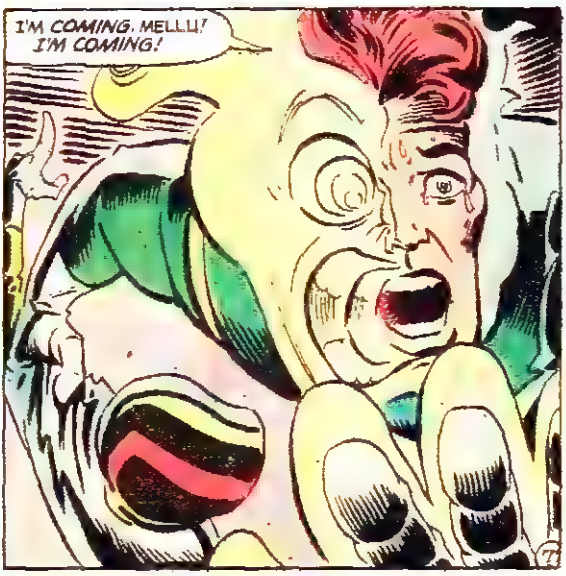

SHE'S FAINTED FROM SHEER TERROR, BUT I PREFER THAT TO HAVING TO STRUGGLE WITH HER INSIDE THIS TUBE!
THE CONTROLS ARE ALL "GO" AND THE TUBE'S BEEN REACTIVATED! WE'RE ON OUR WAY!

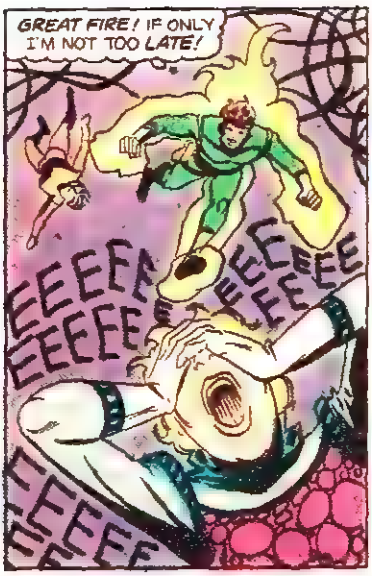
OOOHHH! I-I FEEL SO... SO DIZZY! AS IF... AS IF...

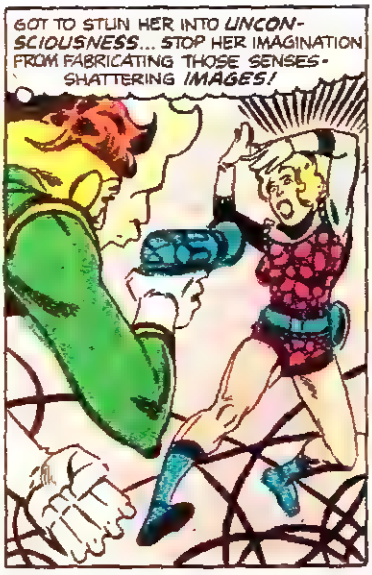

I-IT'S A... A MIRROR OF SOME KIND! I-IT'S AS IF I WERE... SEEING MYSELF... WATCHING MYSELF CH-CHANGING...

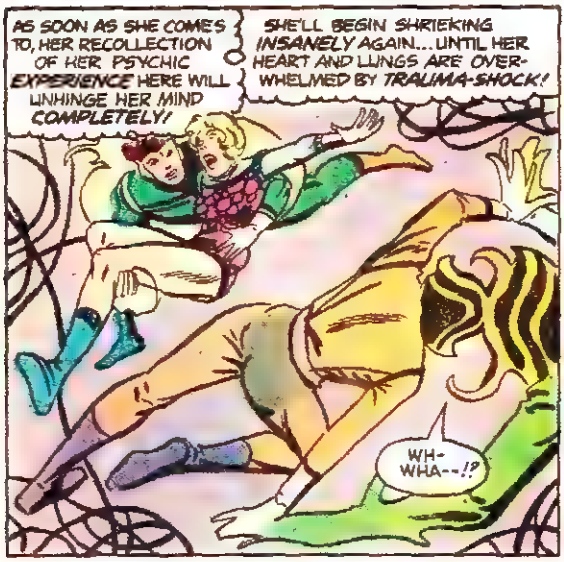
...CHANGING INTO. INTO...
AAAGGGHHH

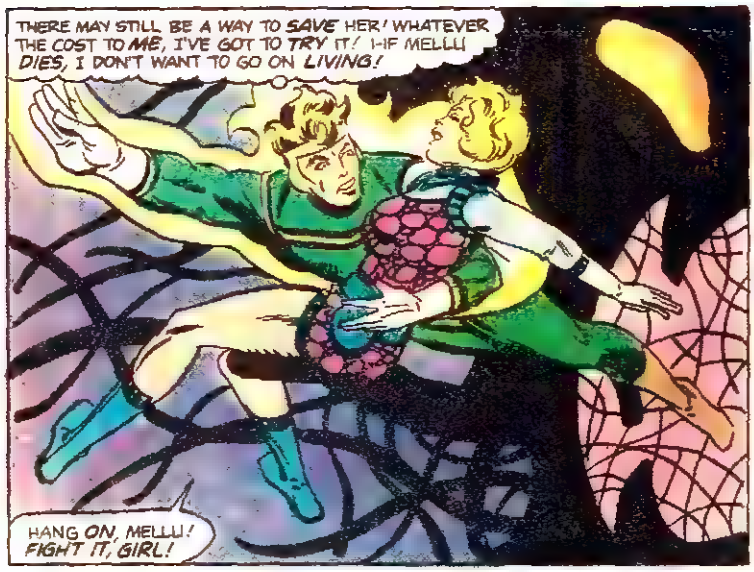
EEEAAAHHHH
MELLU!


I'M COMING. MELLU! I'M COMING!









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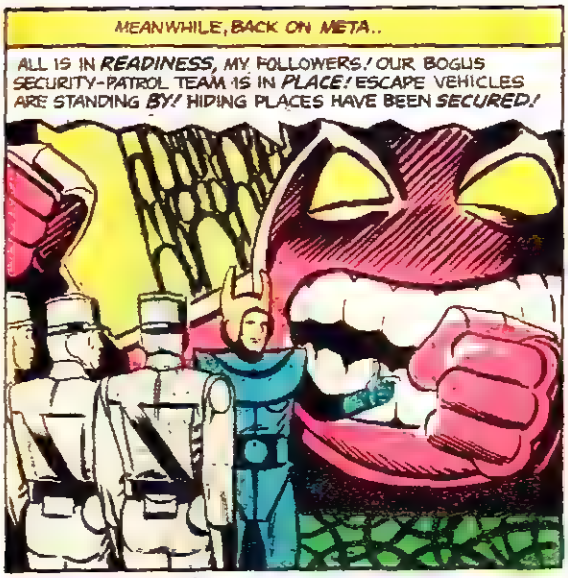
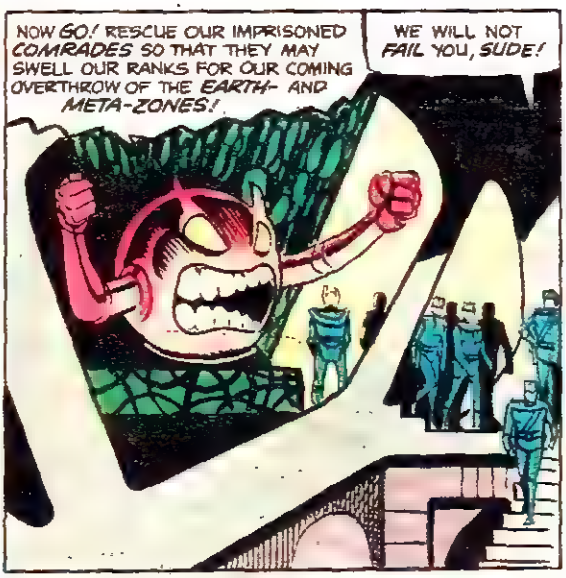
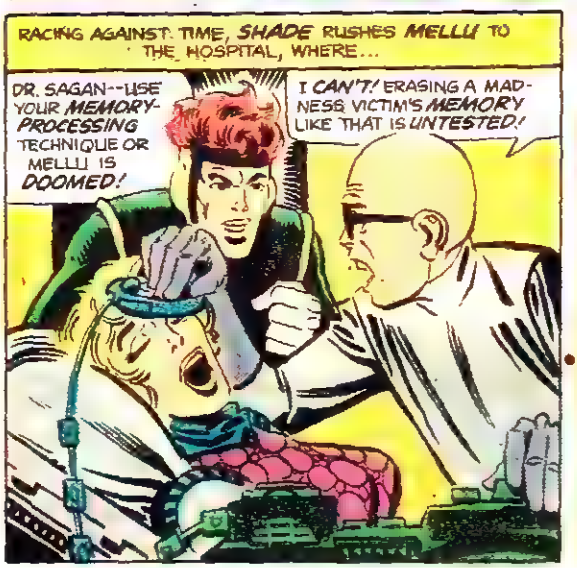
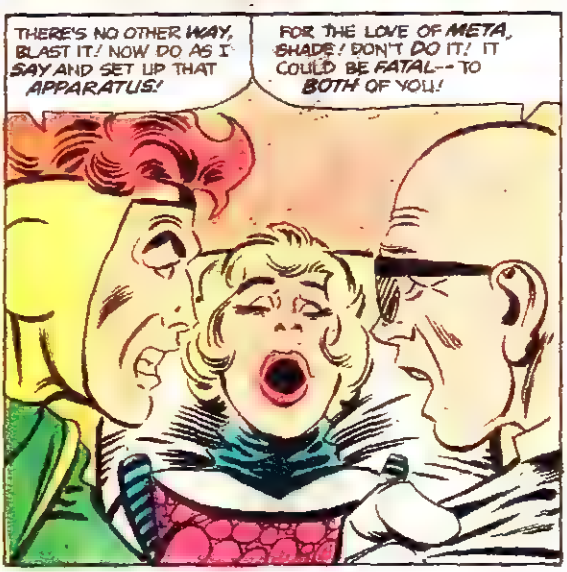
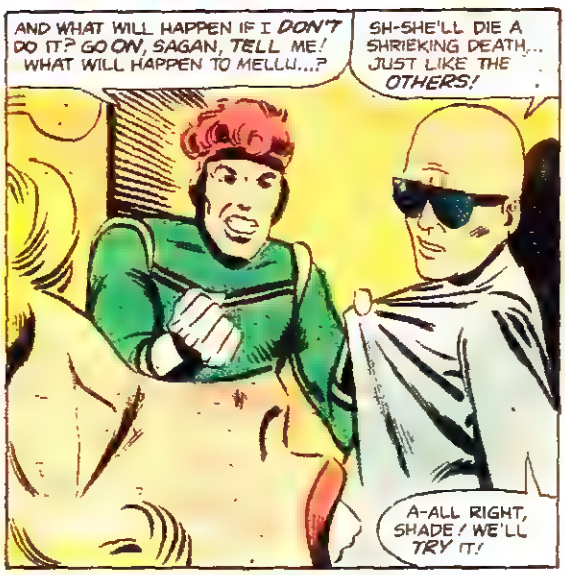
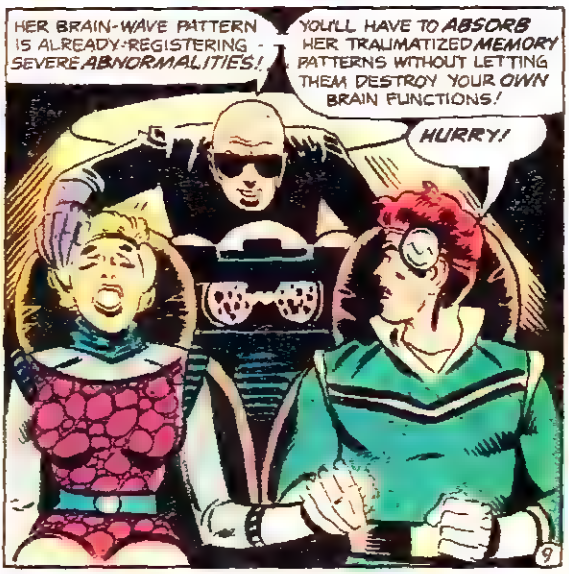

MEANWHILE, BACK ON META..
ALL IS IN READINESS, MY FOLLOWERS! OUR BOGUS SECURITY-PATROL TEAM IS IN PLACE! ESCAPE VEHICLES ARE STANDING BY! HIDING PLACES HAVE BEEN SECURED!

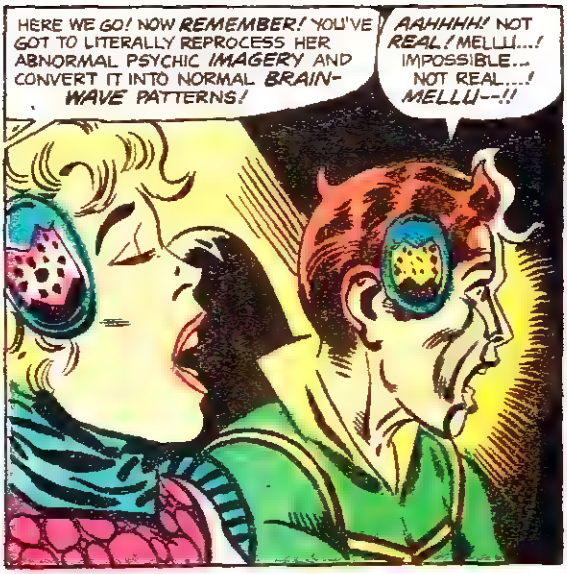

NOW GO! RESCUE OUR IMPRISONED COMRADES SO THAT THEY MAY SWELL OUR RANKS FOR OUR COMING OVERTHROW OF THE EARTH- AND META-ZONES!
WE WILL NOT FAIL YOU, SLIDE!

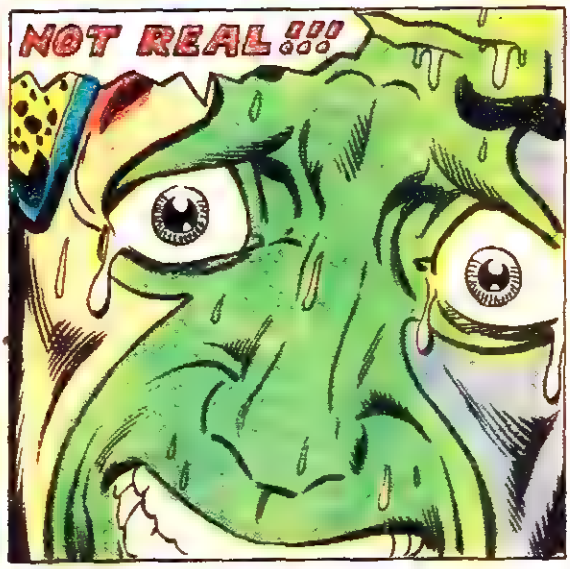

RACING AGAINST TIME, SHADE RUSHES MELLU TO THE HOSPITAL, WHERE...
DR. SAGAN--USE YOUR MEMORY-PROCESSING TECHNIQUE OR MELLU IS DOOMED!
I CAN'T! ERASING A MADNESS VICTIM'S MEMORY LIKE THAT IS UNTESTED!

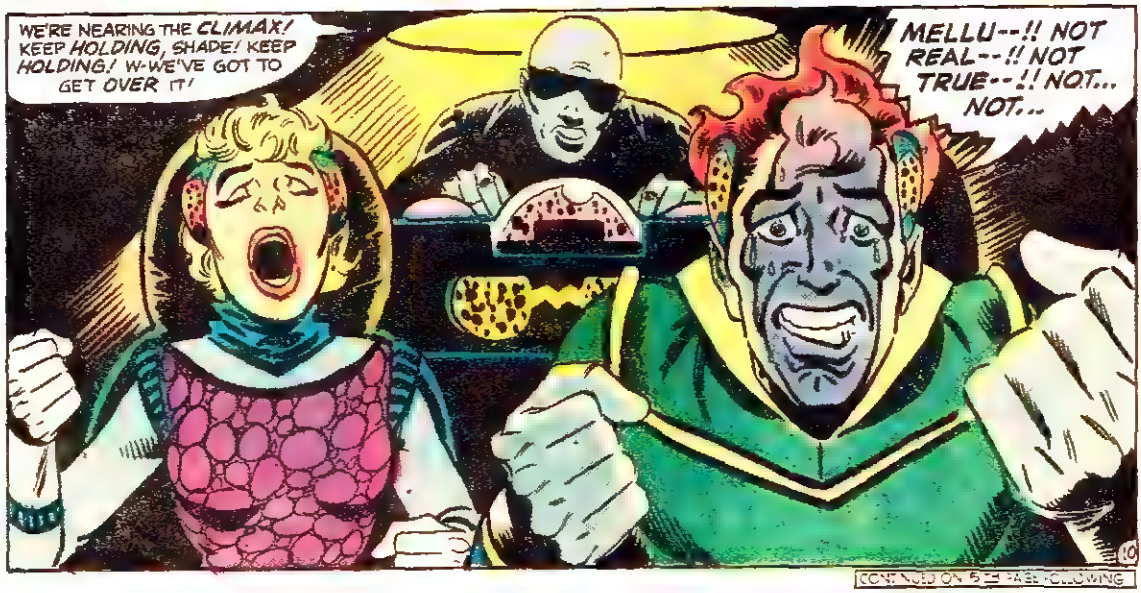

THERE'S NO OTHER WAY, BLAST IT! NOW DO AS I SAY AND SET UP THAT APPARATUS!
FOR THE LOVE OF META, SHADE! DON'T DO IT! IT COULD BE FATAL--TO BOTH OF YOU!


AND WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I DON'T DO IT? GO ON, SAGAN, TELL ME! WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO MELLU...?
SH-SHE'LL DIE A SHRIEKING DEATH... JUST LIKE THE OTHERS!
A-ALL RIGHT, SHADE! WE'LL TRY IT!


HER BRAIN-WAVE PATTERN IS ALREADY REGISTERING SEVERE ABNORMALITIES!
YOU'LL HAVE TO ABSORB HER TRAUMATIZED MEMORY PATTERNS WITHOUT LETTING THEM DESTROY YOUR OWN BRAIN FUNCTIONS!
HURRY!







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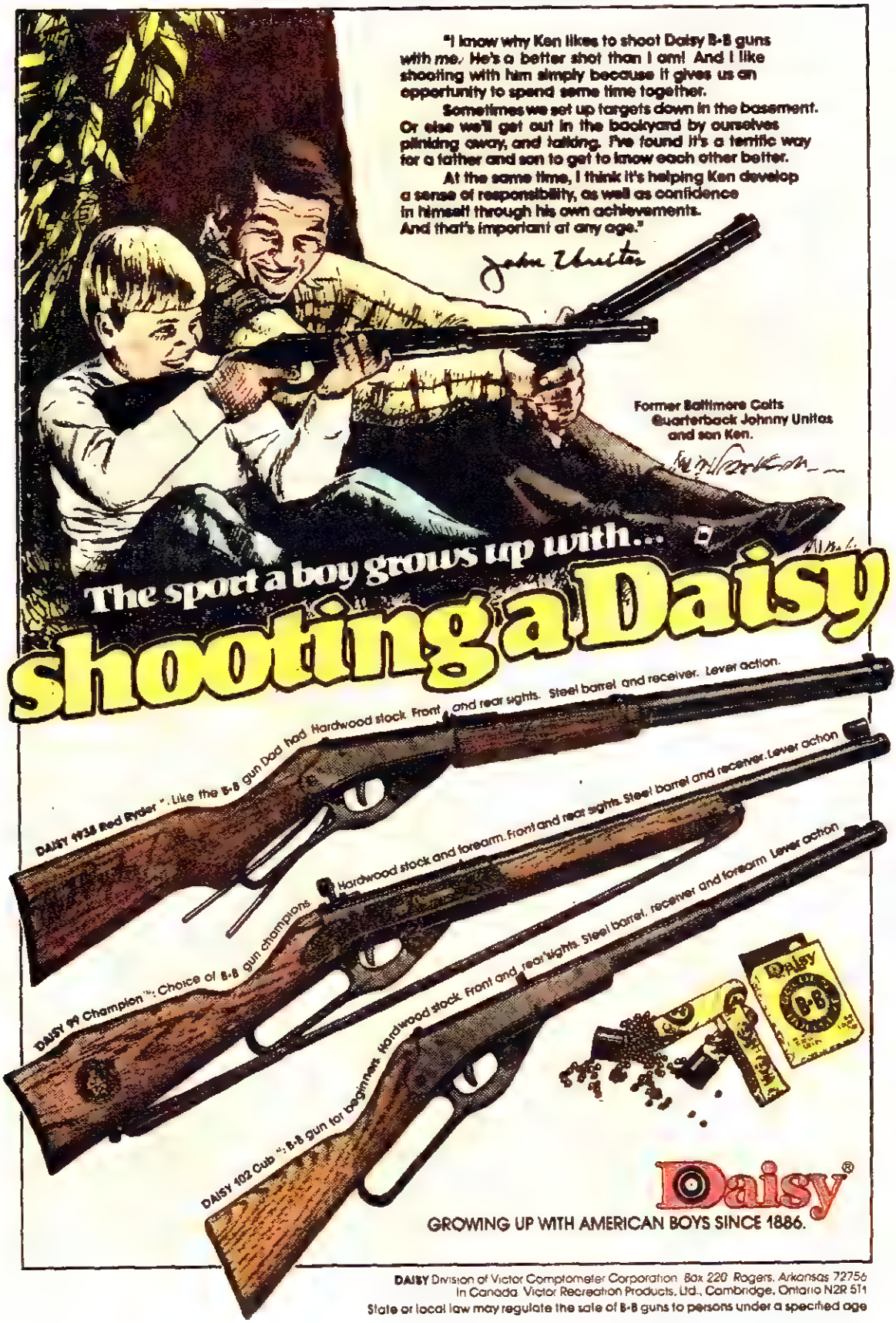

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9:00AM 8:00 CENTRAL NEW
WHAT'S NEW MISTER MAGOO?

THE NEAR-SIGHTED LITTLE MAN EVERYONE LOVES AND HIS BRAND NEW CANINE PAL, Mc BARKER (WHO CAN BARELY SEE A FLEA ON HIS NOSE), STUMBLE OVER GHOSTS, CROOKS, MONSTERS AND ALL SORTS OF NEW CRAZY ADVENTURES!

9:30AM 8:30 CENTRAL NEW LIVE
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Robonic Stooges

SUPER ROBOTS WHO CAN DO ANYTHING—WRONG!

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WHAT EVIL HAS TRAPPED OUR 3 YOUNG HEROES ON THIS MYSTERIOUS ISLAND? CAN THE REMARKABLE ROBOT, POPS, SAVE THEM FROM THE TERRIBLE DR. SPIDER?

Woofer & Whimper

THE HILARIOUS ANTICS OF THOSE TWO CANINE DETECTIVES WITH A BONE TO PICK WITH CROOKS

10:30PM 9:30 CENTRAL NEW LIVE
Space Academy

IT IS THE FUTURE—A GIANT CITY FLOATS THROUGH THE GALAXY—HOME BASE FOR EXPLORERS WITH SPECIAL ABILITIES AND THE ASSIGNMENT TO UNRAVEL MYSTERIES OF OUTER SPACE!

11:00AM 10:00 CENTRAL
The Bat-Man/Tarzan Adventure Hour

A GRIPPING HOUR OF ACTION

BATMAN, ROBIN AND THAT FOURTH DIMENSIONAL RASCAL BATMITE BATTLE THE JOKER, THE PENGUIN AND OTHER SUPER-VILLAINS IN EXCITING ALL NEW THRILLERS!

THE LORD OF THE JUNGLE SWINGS BACK INTO ACTION AIDED BY HIS POWERFUL ANIMAL FRIENDS. TARZAN PROTECTS THEIR JUNGLE HOME FROM DANGEROUS NEW MENACES.

12:00N 11:00 CENTRAL NEW LIVE
Wacko

HOLD ON TO YOUR HATS... HERE COMES THE WILDEST, FUNNIEST, FASTEST COMEDY AND MUSIC SHOW EVER TO MAKE YOUR YOUNG HEAD SPIN!

12:30PM 11:30 CENTRAL
Fat Albert and the Cosby Kids

THEY'RE COOL...THEY'RE SHARP...THEY'RE THE KIDS YOU LOVE. BACK FOR MORE GREAT FUN!

1:00PM 12:00 CENTRAL LIVE
The Secrets of Isis

THE SUPER-HEROINE RETURNS, USING HER MAGICAL POWERS TO FIGHT THE FORCES OF EVIL WHEREVER THEY APPEAR!

1:30PM 12:30 CENTRAL
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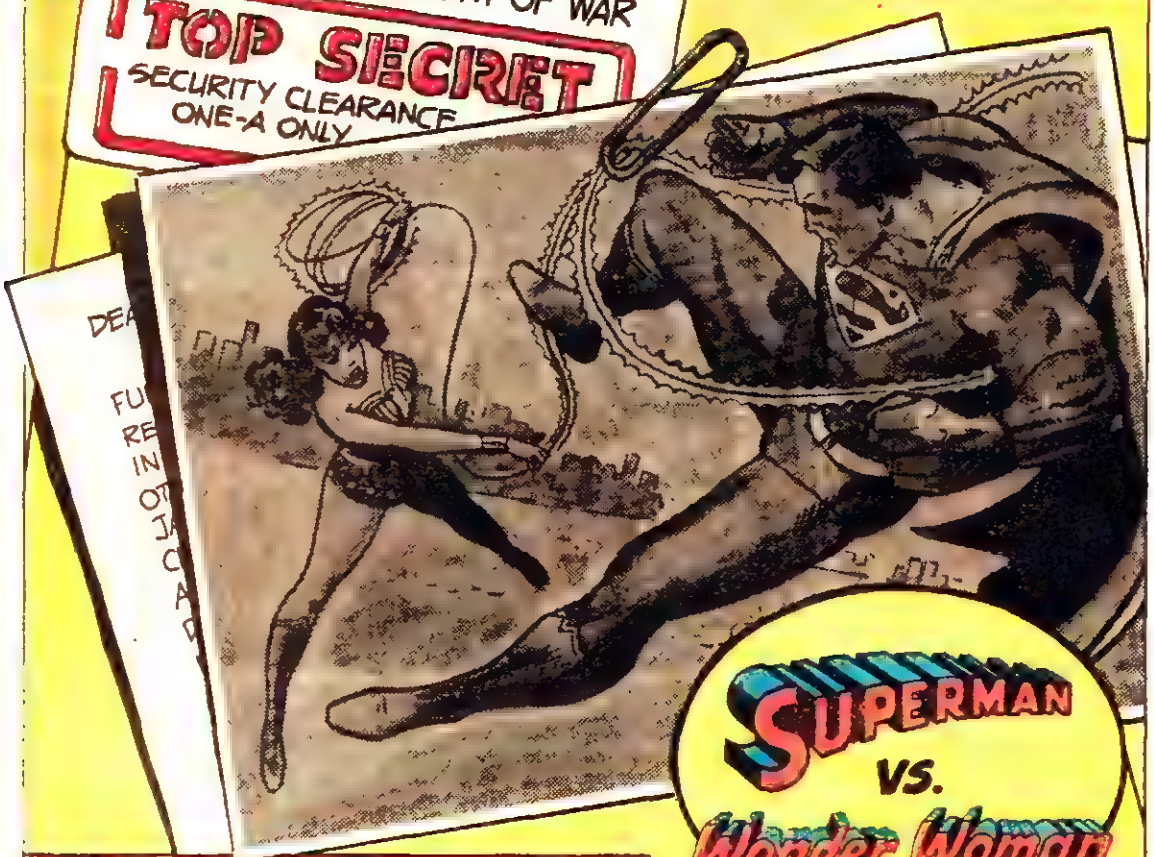

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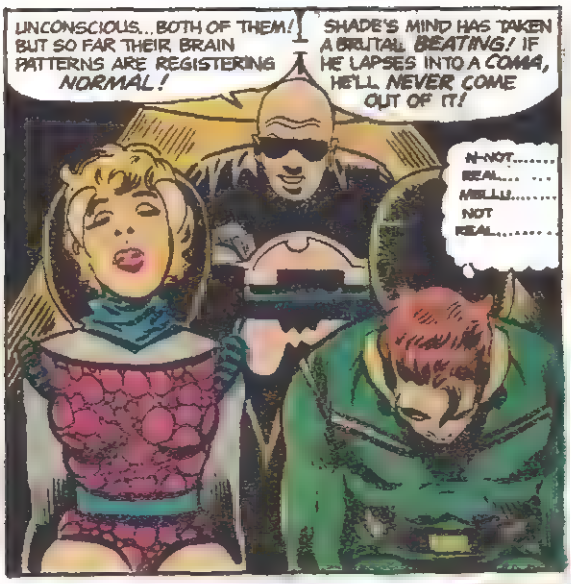
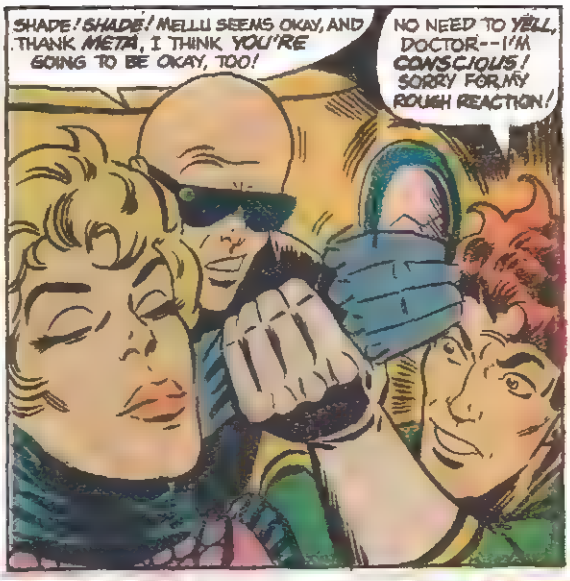
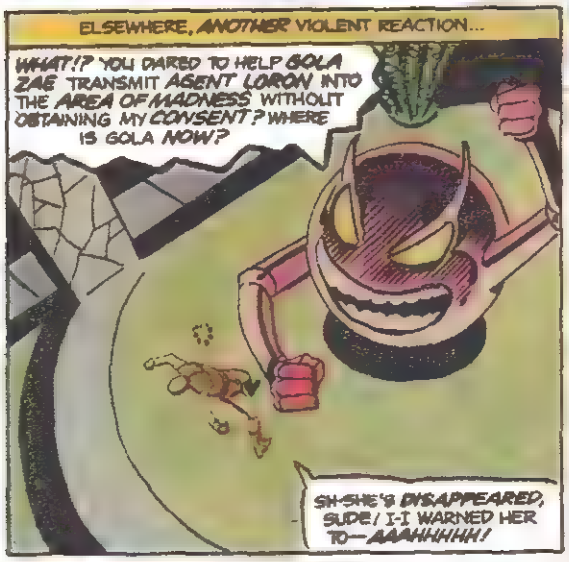
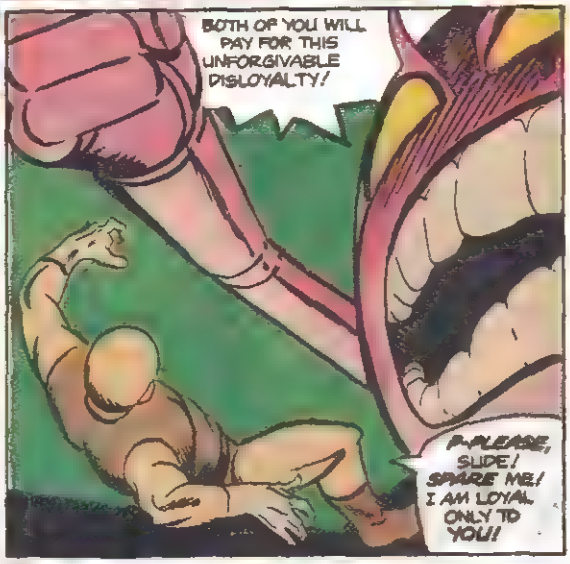

UNCONSCIOUS... BOTH OF THEM! BUT SO FAR THEIR BRAIN PATTERNS ARE REGISTERING NORMAL!
SHADE'S MIND HAS TAKEN A BRUTAL BEATING! IF HE LAPSES INTO A COMA, HE'LL NEVER COME OUT OF IT!
N-NOT..... REAL..... MELLU..... NOT REAL.....

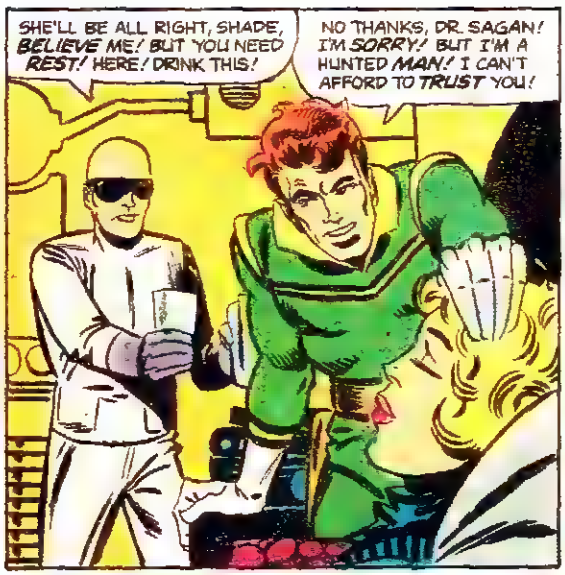

SHADE! SHADE! MELLU SEEMS OKAY, AND THANK META, I THINK YOU'RE GOING TO BE OKAY, TOO!
NO NEED TO YELL, DOCTOR--I'M CONSCIOUS! SORRY FOR MY ROUGH REACTION!

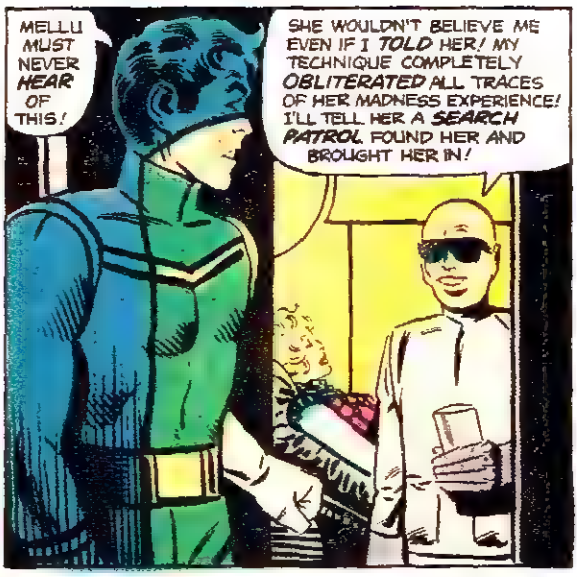

ELSEWHERE, ANOTHER VIOLENT REACTION...
WHAT!? YOU DARED TO HELP GOLA ZAE TRANSMIT AGENT LORON INTO THE AREA OF MADNESS WITHOUT OBTAINING MY CONSENT? WHERE IS GOLA NOW?
SH-SHE'S DISAPPEARED, SUDE! I-I WARNED HER TO--AAAHHHHH!

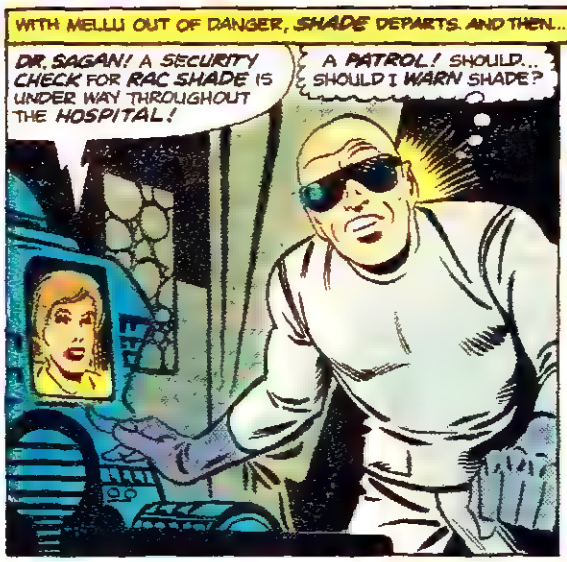

BOTH OF YOU WILL PAY FOR THIS UNFORGIVABLE DISLOYALTY!
P-PLEASE, SUDE! SPARE ME! I AM LOYAL ONLY TO YOU!

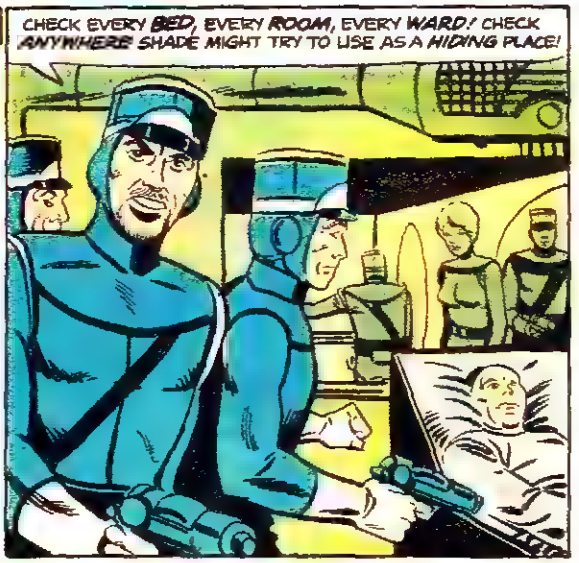
I SHOULD DESTROY YOU SLOWLY, BUT EVERY SECOND YOU LIVE ONLY SERVES AS A PAINFUL REMINDER OF MY OWN SUFFERING!
NO!
AAAA

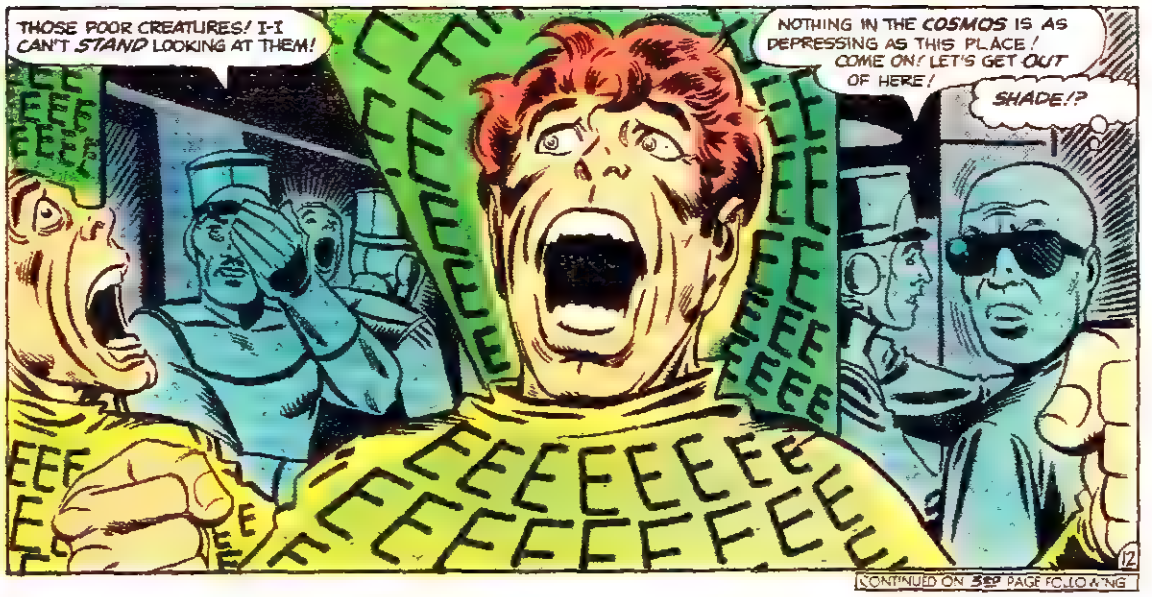
OH, MELLU... MELLU! WH-WHAT... WHAT... HAVE I DONE TO YOU?











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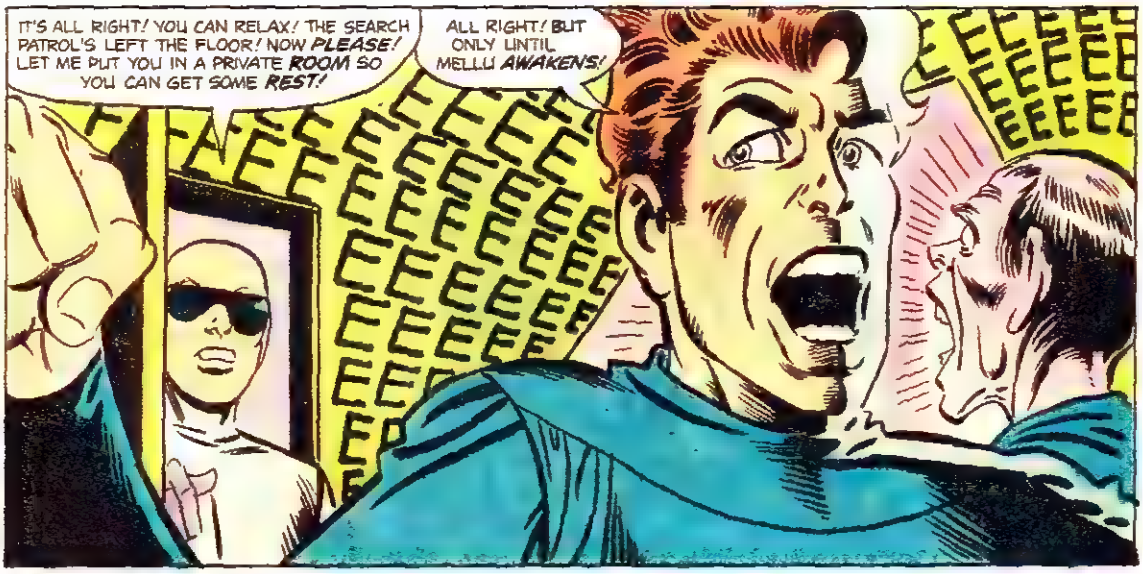
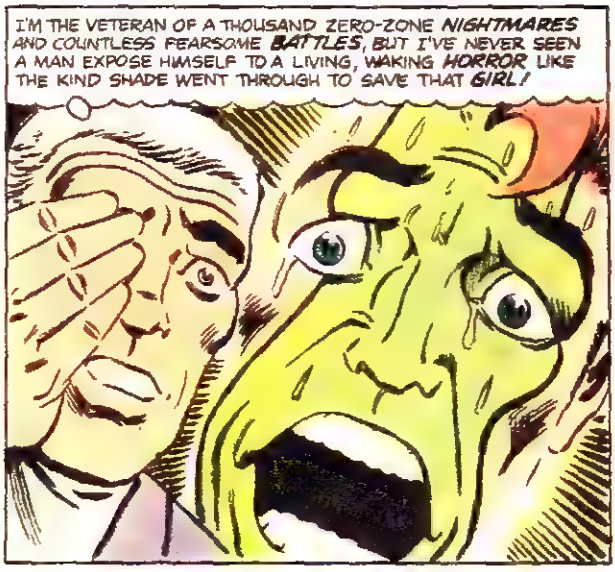

IT'S ALL RIGHT! YOU CAN RELAX! THE SEARCH PATROL'S LEFT THE FLOOR! NOW PLEASE! LET ME PUT YOU IN A PRIVATE ROOM SO YOU CAN GET SOME REST!
ALL RIGHT! BUT ONLY UNTIL MELLU AWAKENS!

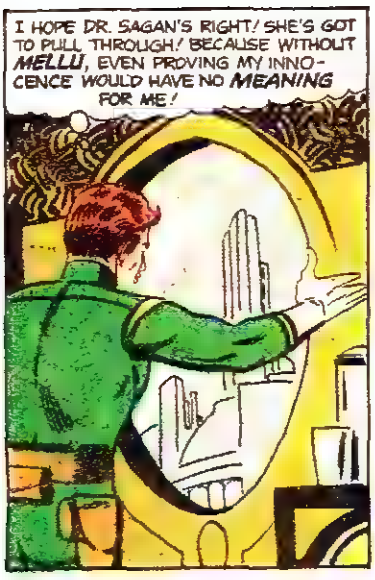
YOU'LL BE SAFE IN HERE! AS SOON AS I'M READY TO EXAMINE MELLU, I'LL COME GET YOU!

I-IT'S INCREDIBLE! EVEN THOUGH I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES, I CAN STILL HARDLY BELIEVE IT!

BUT I DID SEE IT! FROM THE MOMENT SHADE BROUGHT THAT POOR GIRL INTO THE HOSPITAL, I SAW EVERY NERVE-SHATTERING MOMENT OF IT!


I'M THE VETERAN OF A THOUSAND ZERO-ZONE NIGHTMARES AND COUNTLESS FEARSOME BATTLES, BUT I'VE NEVER SEEN A MAN EXPOSE HIMSELF TO A LIVING, WAKING HORROR LIKE THE KIND SHADE WENT THROUGH TO SAVE THAT GIRL!

WHAT KIND OF A MAN IS HE? A HERO, OR A TRAITOR TO META?
AS A SECURITY OFFICER, IT'S MY DUTY TO TURN HIM IN! BUT AS A MAN, I FEEL LIKE HANDING HIM ALL MY MEDALS AND DECORATIONS!


I HOPE DR. SAGAN'S RIGHT! SHE'S GOT TO PULL THROUGH! BECAUSE WITHOUT MELLU, EVEN PROVING MY INNOCENCE WOULD HAVE NO MEANING FOR ME!

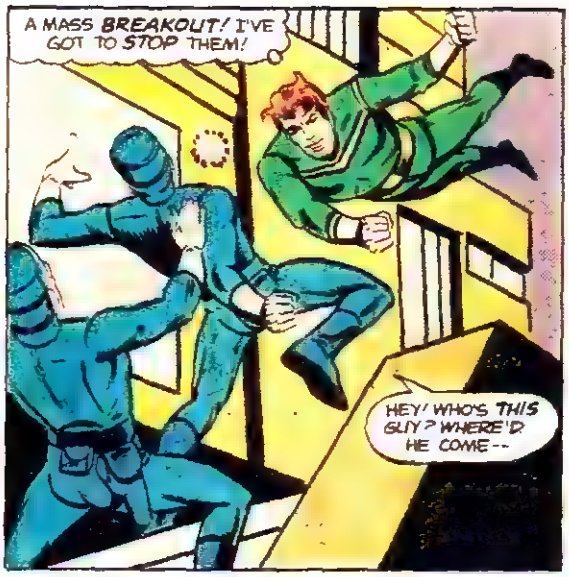
IF I COULDN'T HAVE A LIFE HERE, WITH MELLU, I THINK I'D JUST LEAVE META...

... GO INTO PERMANENT EXILE ON EARTH... TRY TO--
WHA--!? IN FRONT OF THE HOSPITAL! WHAT'S GOING ON THERE?

CLOBBER HIM! HE'S THE LAST ONE! ONCE HE'S OUT OF ACTION WE'RE IN THE CLEAR!
THE OTHERS ARE ALREADY INSIDE, WAITING FOR THE BREAKOUT SIGNAL!

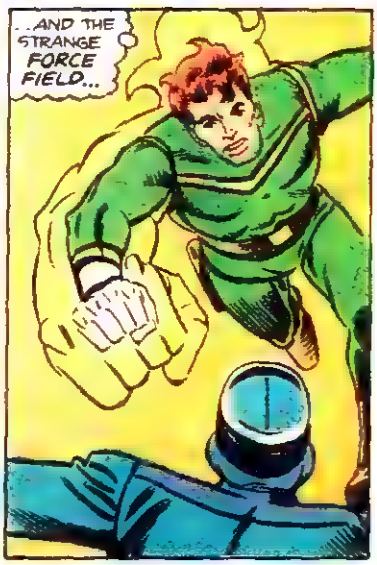
GO AHEAD AND GIVE IT THEN! THE ESCAPE VEHICLES ARE ALL REVVED UP AND READY!
OUR COMRADES WILL MAKE THEIR MOVE AS SOON AS THEY HEAR THIS!

WHEOT
THERE IT IS, BOYS! IT'S BREAKOUT TIME!
THEN LET'S GET OUTA HERE!
AXEN! HURRY! SOUND THE--! AAAGGHH!
FORGET IT, COPPERS! YOU AIN'T SOUNDIN' NOTHIN'!


A MASS BREAKOUT! I'VE GOT TO STOP THEM!
HEY! WHO'S THIS GUY? WHERE'D HE COME--

I-IT'S RAC SHADE! A-AND LOOKIT! H-HE'S HE'S CHANGING!
YES, CHANGING THANKS TO YOUR PSYCHOLOGICAL STATE OF SURPRISE...

...OF FEAR...


...AND THE STRANGE FORCE FIELD...

...OF MY M-VEST!

WE'RE OUTA THERE! DIDN'T I TELL YOU GUYS THAT SUDE WOULD PULL IT OFF?
HURRY UP BLAST IT! STOP YOUR GLOATING AND CLIMB ABOARD THOSE VEHICLES!

WE'VE BEEN COOPED IN THAT HOSPITAL SO LONG, WE'RE--

HUH!

WHO IN--!? HUNH--!?! OOOFFF!

IT'S RAC SHADE! STOP HIM!

I'M MAKING A CHANGE IN YOUR ESCAPE PLAN!

YOU'RE ALL HEALTHY NOW, SO I'LL SEE YOU'RE SENT BACK TO PRISON!

THERE'RE TOO MANY! I CAN'T HANDLE THEM ALONE!

BUT I DON'T HAVE TO! NO ONE'S ESCAPING IN THAT VEHICLE, AND THE RAY-BLAST WILL ATTRACT A SWARM OF SECURITY GUARDS!

I'LL LET THEM ROUND UP THE CRIMESTERS...WHILE I MAKE MYSELF SCARCE!

BUT AS SHADE ZOOMS UP...

WH-WHAT AM I DOING HERE. IN THE HOSPITAL?

WHA--!? AN EXPLOSION ...FROM THE COURTYARD! IT-IT LOOKS LIKE--

CONCLUDED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING

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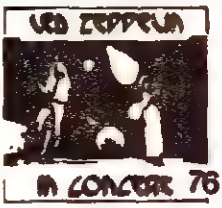

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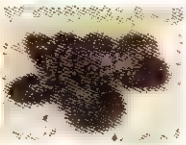
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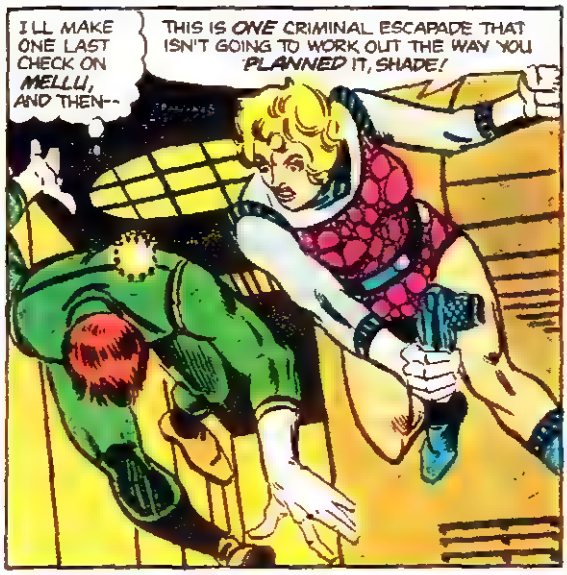

AND WHEN SHADE AWAKENS..

THE TRANQUILIZER HOOD WILL KEEP HIM FROM RESISTING! NOW QUICKLY! REMOVE HIS FORCE-FIELD VEST!

YOU'RE CAUGHT, SHADE! AT LAST YOUR DEATH SENTENCE WILL BE CARRIED OUT! AND IN YOUR FINAL, CRINGING MOMENTS, REMEMBER THAT IT WAS I WHO CAPTURED YOU!

OH NO! IF ONLY MELLU COULD REALIZE WHAT SHE'S DONE!

TO BE CONTINUED-- JANUARY 38¢!

mysterious messages to the META-ZONE

c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

L-753

Dear Editor,

There's much I can say about your latest creation, **Shade, the Changing Man**. He's not a crime-smashing super-hero, in the strictist sense of the word, but he's definitely not a villain. In other words, he's one of the most exciting and original characters to come out of **DC** in a long time!

The concept of the **Meta-Zone/Zero-Zone/Earth-Zone** is fascinating and original, because most writers could have written **Meta** in as just some alien planet.

It's also nice to see that the crime problem on **Meta** is more serious than on Earth—they're trying to take over the entire planet (Zone?). It seems that on most "other worlds," introduced in comics, the science is so far advanced that crime has been completely wiped out. It was refreshing to see the reverse for a change.

But still, as you said, so many things about **Meta** are still unsaid. What exactly is it? Is the **"Earth-Zone"**, Earth-1 or some other parallel world and what relation is it to the others? Is **Meta** in another dimension or what? I hope these questions will be answered.

I can also see, with the **M-Vest** and the **Em-Rod**, that the **Metan** technology would be deadly in the wrong hands. Don't you think, with the advancements such as this, the **Metans** would be able to bring back the criminals from the **Zero-Zone**?

I would also like to see more about **Rac Shade's** past: What about his relationship with **Mollu**, and the crippling of her parents? I would like the personalities of all the supporting characters to more developed. And about the **M-Vest** itself: Are the images it projects real or imagined? Solid or illusion?

I'd also like to see **Shade** teamed with **the Batman** in **BRAVE AND THE BOLD**. I'm sure he'd make a fine guest-star.

Good luck with a fine series. I hope **Shade** is around for a long time. **Greg Stamey, Jr. 21 Hampton Hgts. Canton, N.C. 28716**

Your letter was one in a thousand, Greg—one of many that asked the questions you've asked. First of all, by now you've seen that the *Metans HAVE* been able to recover all the escaped criminals from the Zero-Zone—all except *SHADE*. The only problem they have is with the mysterious *Area of Madness*.

***SHADE'S* past and his relationships with the various characters we've introduced have been gone over in greater detail in these first four issues and their personalities and being explored as well.**

As for the old question of "what Earth" is *SHADE* on, we guess we have to say he's on what is commonly known as "Earth-1," the same place the current-day *SUPERMAN, BATMAN* and *JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA* are on. As for teamingwithany of those right now, we're against it. We're experimenting with vastly different concepts and we feel (for the time being at least) that involving *SHADE* in cross-overs would bog down our plot-lines.—JCH

* * * * *

Dear Editor,

I bought the first issue of **SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN** last week. And now, a week later, I thought I'd write you and tell you what I think about it.

For weeks, I noticed the ads in your other mags about this new comic, **SHADE**. Now the ads didn't necessarily sell the comic to me. What did was the fact that Steve Ditko was doing the story and art!

Steve is one of my all-time favorite artists. The two others are Neal Adams and Jack Kirby. Steve's artwork lies somewhere between Messrs. Adams and Kirby. His characters are not drawn realistically as Mr. Adams' and they are not as muscular as Mr. Kirby's.

Steve's characters always look like common people like you and me, and that's what makes me appreciate his artwork.

When I finished reading the story, I was sort of disappointed. It wasn't what I expected it to be. Fortunately, I read it over again, and this time I understood it better and enjoyed it even more! I enjoyed it so much more that I went out and bought another issue.

I collect many comics, but only a few **DC** issues. But I'm adding **SHADE** to my **must** collection with **GREEN LANTERN** and **JONAH HEX**.

I'm looking forward to the future issues of **SHADE** and I sincerely hope Mr. Ditko stays with this mag longer than he did with **CREEPER** and **HAWK AND THE DOVE**. **Billy R. Warden 5069 Key West Drive Dayton, Ohio 45424**

We're not sure if we're happy that it took a week of reflection and a re-reading of the book before you decided to express your opinions. But we *ARE* happy your reactions were favorable. A good 90% of the mail is telling us the same thing and advanced sales reports look good.

Steve is hard at work on issue #5 and we're pretty sure he's planning to stick around for quite some time. In fact, he just finished the first of the new *CREEPER* stories scheduled for *WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #249*, and it looks like a real winner! Don't miss it!

And don't miss the next issue of *SHADE, THE CHANGING MAN!* Who knows, if you write to *MYSTERIOUS MESSAGES TO THE META-ZONE*, DC Comics, 75 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, New York 10019, you might be reading *YOUR* letter here!

SHOWCASE PRESENTS TOMORROW'S HEROES TODAY! #96—ON SALE SEPTEMBER 22ND! DOOM PATROL

DC Publishorial

THE GREATEST SUPERMAN STORY EVER TOLD

"It was one of those few Superman ideas that had never been done before," explained Cary Bates as he enthusiastically discussed the new, ground-breaking Superman Dollar Comic on sale this month. "It was even more exciting because I had a full 63 pages to develop it. There was room to create little climaxes within bigger ones, to throw in flash-backs and flash-forwards and an occasional surprise, to explore themes that in other stories I could only touch on. I constructed it just as I would a full-length movie script. In every way it was the most rewarding Superman comic I've ever done."

For the past ten years, Cary has been one of the Man of Steel's steadiest and most inventive biographers. But, as Cary mentions, the Superman Dollar Comic is a radical departure both in form and in content from anything he's done in the past. In fact, even within Cary's lifetime (28 years), there's been nothing like it—a novel-length saga featuring only one central character.

And the idea? Credit is given to a friend of writer Marty Pasko, John LaMartine.

Marty thought the idea was terrific and shared it with Cary because both authors had agreed to collaborate on the Superman Dollar Comic. They got the backing of Superman editor Julie Schwartz, brainstormed about the total concept, and divided up the chapters. Cary got I and II.

"I guess I'm very hard to collaborate with," says Cary in an effort to explain how he also ended up with chapters III and IV. "I don't like to know all the details in advance. I'd rather plant a lot of things along the way and see for myself how they turn out.

"When Marty read my chapters, they weren't quite what he'd envisioned. Then I gave him a list of all the things I'd stuck in the first half of the book that he'd have to resolve in the second. We spent the rest of the afternoon in Julie's office."

The outcome, of course, was that Cary would write the whole book.

"Actually," admits Cary, "I was kind of excited it turned out this way. Since I had a vision of how I thought the book should be, I was glad to be able to see it all the way through."

Understandable. The plot has all the elements that have made Cary's Superman tales so eminently readable for so many years. There's the critical counterpoint between the Man of Steel and Clark Kent, the humorous interplay of the Galaxy Communications staff, a raft of extraordinary super-feats, inspired cunning from **both** Luthor and Brainiac, and a bruising climactic battle ending in death.

But most of all, the comic really does revolve around one of the few Superman ideas that has never been done before. And even more than the twists and turns of plot, more than the dynamic clashes, and more than the exciting Curt Swan/Vince Colletta visuals that only a story of this length allows, shines the concept in all its originality.

Let us know how **you** liked the book.

With all the best—

Jenette

"Thanks for Calling!"

By this time, the DC Direct Currents Hotline is expected to have received nearly 750,000 calls. Recently, we've been receiving around 100,000 calls a month—nearly twice as many as we anticipated!

We're grateful for this fantastic response. We really are.

Unfortunately, the Direct Currents Hotline is no more.

Our reasons for this act are simple: the project has been too successful. We have been receiving more calls than our present number of lines could possibly handle. At times, the volume of busy signals has been so great the telephone company has asked us to consider dropping the service. During the two hours immediately following the end of the school day, for example, circuits have often been jammed all across the United States.

There is one last chance for the Hotline. Even as these words are being set in print, the producers of the upcoming Superman movie are considering picking up the service to keep you informed as to the film's progress. Watch this space next month (and keep your eye on the Daily Planet pages); if they decide to do so, you'll be the first to hear about it.

However, DC Comics isn't through with the **IDEA** behind the Hotline. Elsewhere, you can read about the DC Direct Currents Newsletter, a monthly bulletin bringing you the various movies and television series being produced . . . you get the idea. As much as we hate to see the Hotline go, we're truly excited about the Newsletter. We're sure you will be, too.

And to all you folks who wore down your fingertips dialing the Hotline—our deepest thanks and appreciation. It's great to know you're out there.

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Here's all you have to do to receive your first order of greeting cards. Cut out postage-free label and paste on any envelope. Fill in coupon, place in envelope and mail. You may take up to 30 days to sell them. If after that time you have any boxes unsold, promptly return them prepaid by parcel post, keeping 70¢ for each box sold.

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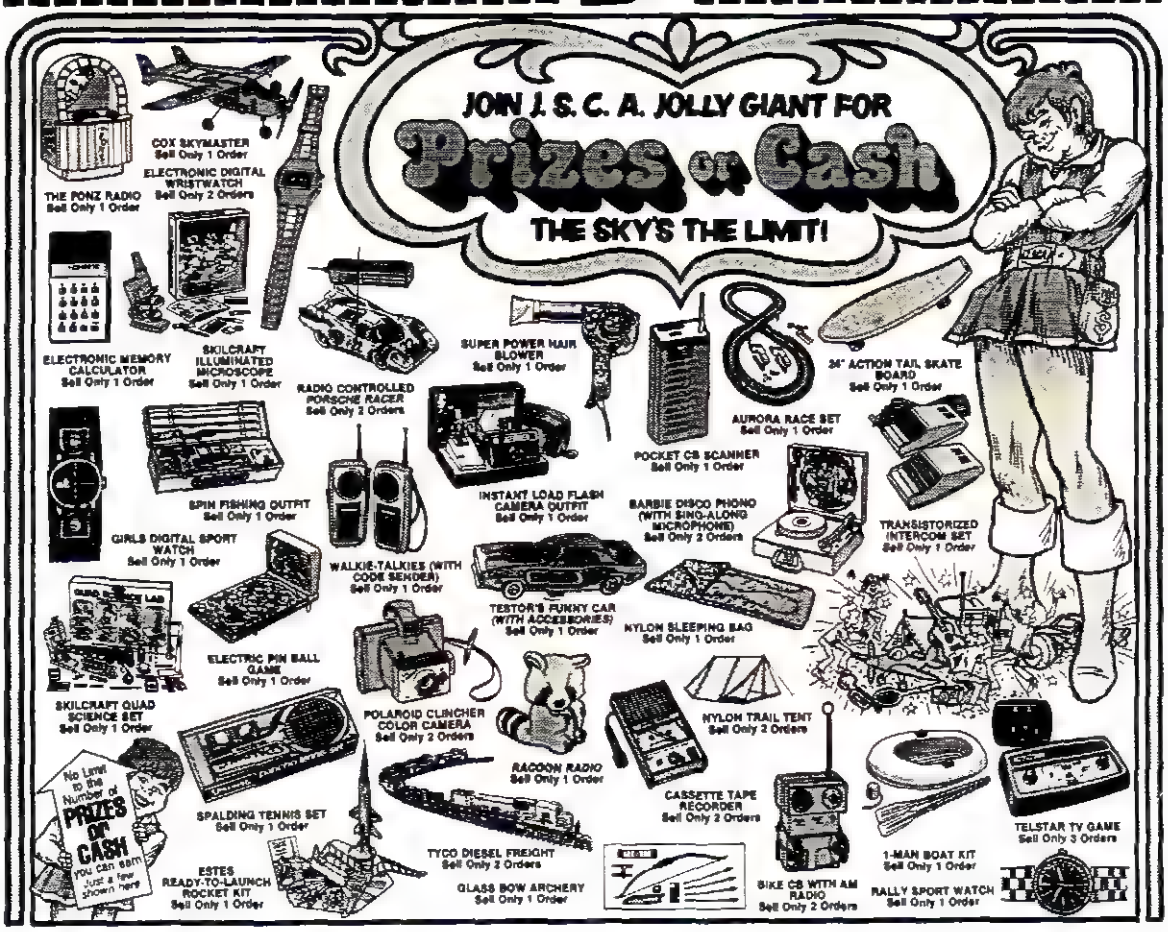

AAU SHOES

AAU SHUPERSTAR FLATTENS HIS ARCH ENEMY...THE MENACING MISSILE-TOE

Holy Shinola!! It's **DCP!!!!**

DC
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SECOND CLASS CITIZENS-DCP

Shade The Changing Man #4

December 1977/January 1978

DC Comics

"To Rescue My Destroyer"

created, drawn & plotted: Steve Ditko

dialogue: Michael Fleisher

color: Jerry Serpe

letters: Bill Morse

editor: Jack C. Harris